

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**



MAI's seventh Airbus A319 is seen alongside Yangon International Airport.

MAI's 7th Airbus A319 lands at Yangon International Airport

As part of its strategic fleet and network expansions for better regional connectivity and efficiency, Myanmar Airways International welcomed its seventh Airbus A319 aircraft to Yangon International Airport on 23 June.

A water spraying ceremony, which was attended by officials from the Department of Civil Aviation, MAI executives, partner representatives and guests, was held for this aircraft, with registration number XY-ALY named Bagan.

"This aircraft arrival is a significant step in MAI's strategy to expand its network. It will increase our passenger ca-

capacity for the upcoming tourist season, and expand our regional routes faster. It will support our commitment to providing direct connections and reliable flights in line with international standards to meet the needs of Myanmar's aviation transport sector," said MAI chief executive officer Mr Tanes Kumar.

Coinciding with MAI's expansion, celebrating its 32nd anniversary, the new Airbus A319 will be used on the current most popular routes as well as new routes, due to its range and capacity.

Starting from late October, MAI will fly more flights to Yangon-Hanoi, Yangon/

Mandalay-Chiang Mai, Yangon-Da Nang, Yangon-Kolkata, Yangon-Chennai, and Yangon-Guangzhou, subject to authorities' approvals.

With this arrival, MAI's fleet now totals 11 aircraft, including seven Airbus A320s, two Embraer E 190s, an ATR72-600 and a Boeing 737-400F cargo aircraft. MAI is based at Yangon and Mandalay airports and operates flights to 41 cities across Myanmar, ASEAN, Northeast Asia and the Middle East. MAI's partner Mingalar Airlines has acquired three ATR72-600 aircraft, bringing the Group's total fleet to 14 aircraft. — MT/ZN

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Sagaing Tourism Zone preparing for tourism revival

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Sagaing Region) has been prepping to revive tourism in the Sagaing Tourism Zone, where tourists and homegrown visitors used to be crowded.

There are six tourism zones in Sagaing Region: Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Katha, Kalay and the Naga Self-Administered Zone. Local pilgrims mostly

flock to Sagaing and Monywa zones, and reconstruction activities are underway, following the Mandalay Earthquake. Transportation has been restored there. Souvenir shops are also back in business now. Zalon Hill and the reclining figure called the Alaungdaw Kathapa. Normally, those places are crowded with pilgrims during the high season.

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This photo captures buildings and bridges destroyed by the Mandalay Earthquake.

NATIONAL

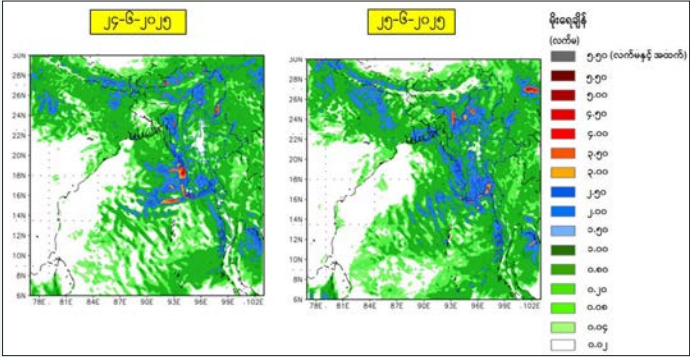
Sportsmanship is essential in sports competitions ...

IN times of difficulty, sportsmanship provides the courage to face challenges, believe in oneself, and persevere without giving up ...
(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the 5th National Sports Festival 2024 on 9 December 2024)

Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 23 June 2025

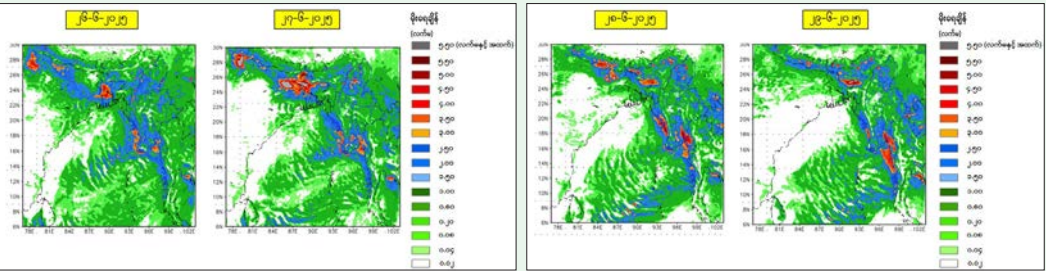
ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during tonight to 29 June 2025. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar



Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strikes, lightning, hail, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH

Advisory

People should be aware of natural disasters such



Myanmar reports 29 new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 2,199 samples from 8 pm on 15 June 2025 to 8 pm on 22 June 2025, and 29 new cases were detected. Therefore, the positivity rate was 1.32 per cent, and no new casualties were reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm MST on 23 June 2025

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 24 June 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Magway, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

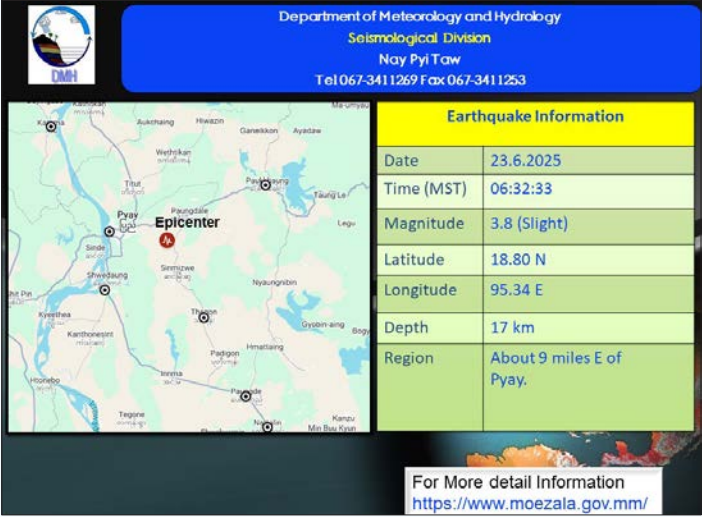
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increases of rain in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 June 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE



A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.8 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about nine miles east of Pyaw), latitude 18.80°N, longitude 95.34°E, depth 17 kilometres, about 73 miles west of Toungoo seismological observatory was recorded at 06 hours 32minutes 33 seconds MST on 23 June 2025. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

MoI holds monsoon tree planting, fish release ceremonies

THE Ministry of Information organized the 2025 monsoon tree planting ceremony and fish release ceremony at MRTV in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn remarked and distributed small plants to the staff of the affiliated departments.

The Union minister and his wife planted the ironwood.

All officials, staff members and their families also grew the plants at the designated locations, and the Union minister inspected the tree-planting activities.

He observed the 150,000-gallon water tank that feeds water to the MRTV building and staff housing.

At the fish release ceremony, the Union minister and his wife released the fish into the ponds, and officials, staff and families participated in the event.

He inspected the breeding of 176 goats and 366 ducks in the compound of MRTV.

The Union minister and party oversaw the one-month Advanced Course for Broadcasting Training for the engineers at the main building of MRTV.



The MoI monsoon tree-growing event in action yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, participated by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

In the conference room, he heard the report forwarded by the Elevate Company CEO regarding the importance of CND for Internet Over the Top (OTT) and broadcasting with AI.

The Union minister and party enjoyed the filming of the “question and answer for public information” programmes and of MRTV HD channel at News Studio 2, and the Union minister provided instructions on fake information spread online. — MNA/KTZH

Diplomacy Diploma Course 1/2025 launched in Yangon by MoFA and Naypyitaw State Academy

THE opening ceremony of the Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2025 course, jointly organized by Myanmar Diplomatic Academy under the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Naypyitaw State Academy, was held yesterday at the Wunzin Min Yaza Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw attended the ceremony and delivered the opening speech.

The Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2025 course will span eight months, consisting of two academic semesters of four



The documentary group photo of the Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2025 course at yesterday’s opening.

months each. The curriculum will cover topics such as diplomacy, international relations, foreign policy, international organizations, international laws, and contemporary global affairs.

The opening ceremony was also attended by retired deputy ministers and ambassadors, directors-general and officials from the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, the Rector and faculty members from Naypyitaw State Academy and other universities, veteran diplomats, subject matter experts, and trainees.

A total of 51 trainees, including officials and staff members from various government ministries and organizations, as well as interested individuals from the private sector, will take part in the course. During the training period, the programme will offer theoretical lessons, discussions, practical exercises, and group research paper presentations, ensuring a comprehensive blend of theory and practice. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL



The UNOCHA Office Head ad interim calls on Union Minister Dr Soe Win yesterday.

MSWRR Union Minister receives UNOCHA Office Interim Head

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received a delegation led by Ms Vanessa May, Interim Head of the Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), at the ministry's reception hall yesterday.

They exchanged views openly and cordially on the ongoing collaborative efforts

between the Ministry and UNOCHA, the government's earthquake recovery operations, the status of prefabricated offices and houses donated by the People's Republic of China, the completion of prefabricated school structures donated by the AHA Centre, UNOCHA's staffing matters, and areas of continued cooperation. — MNA/MKKS

Relief efforts gaining ground in quake-hit communities

AS of 23 June, the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March has left 3,761 people dead, 5,104 injured, and 45 missing across six severely affected states and regions.

Search and rescue operations are being carried out promptly in the necessary areas by members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade as well as local and international rescue teams. So far, 653 survivors have been rescued from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 839 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Donations of cash and essential supplies from generous donors both within the country and from abroad continue to be provided to support those affected by the disaster, and further updates will be released in due course. — MNA/MKKS

Tianjin College trains skilled tech workforce

THE Tianjin Light Industry Vocational Technical College, in the northern part of China, with more than 100 students around the world, offers training in essential skills needed for job opportunities.

The main objective is to train and nurture qualified technical professionals who can contribute to the economic and social development of the countries collaborating with Tianjin Light Industry Vocational Technical College.

Tianjin is one of China's major economic zones, known for its growing industries, technology, and service sectors. The Tianjin Light Industry Vocational Technical College plays a vital role in producing human resources that align with employment opportunities, contributing significantly to the city's development.

There are approximately 500 staff and over 11,000 students at the college.

It offers China's vocational education system, training based on international curricula, incorporating global standards, advanced technical equipment, and modern teaching materials in a way that connects theoretical knowledge to practical application, using modern machinery, laboratories, real-factory internships,



Trainees undergo a rigorous training session.

and hands-on training methods.

It offers different subjects like paper, plastic, garment and other manufacturing technologies, industry and electronic engineering, automation, robotics, CNC technology, information technology and digital design, computer programming, cooking and hospitality, health and social services.

It includes internship courses with companies and entrepreneurs in Beijing

and Tianjin, and those who receive government-authorized diplomas can grab opportunities for job prosperous in China and further studies in international universities.

It also offers scholarships and three training programmes, standing as a prominent vocational college for applicable technical development through the collaboration of industry and education. — Linn Linn/KTZH

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Relief and rehab operations ongoing in quake zones

RESCUE and rehabilitation operations are being implemented in the areas facing extensive loss and damage caused by the Mandalay earthquake.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and relevant officials inspected the clearing of debris at the collapsed building at religious sites in Sagaing.

They proceeded to Sagaing Education Degree College and oversaw the clearing of debris in the college compound and the construction of modular houses for quake survivors in the compound of Maha Seekongyi Pagoda.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the

Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials inspected the storage of answer papers of the 2025 matriculation examination at No 16 BEHS in Chanayethazan township of Mandalay and preparations to transport them to the relevant exam departments in time.

They oversaw the rubble removal at the collapsed buildings at religious sites in Aungmyaythazan and Chanmyathazi townships. — MNA/KTZH

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing and officials inspect debris removal operations using machinery in Mandalay.



MSF develops home payment plan for seafarers

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) has now worked on the introduction of a home instalment plan for seafarers.

At present, there are about 150,000 officially registered seafarers in Myanmar, of whom 40 per cent own homes and the rest 60 per cent are living in rented homes.

“It is hard to say exactly about seafarers who own a house, but according to our estimation, it is about 40 per cent, and the remaining 60 per cent are tenants,” said an official.

To help all seafarers have their own homes, MSF have now sought a 10-15-year home loan, in collaboration with construction companies which can pour investment in housing projects.

“This is beyond our ability, so we organize events that help seafarers and construction companies meet. It is up to them to make a decision on buying a house. At events we organized, we found that seafarers can have the opportunity to gain access to a bank loan as well as purchase a house. A seafarer would have his own house in 10 or 15 years if he bought a house in instalments,” said Captain Soe Min Aung. – Htet Oo Maung/ZS



Myanmar Seafarers Federation patrons and CEC members meet on 19 June 2025.

Myanmar extradites 49 Ethiopians, detains 10 undocumented telecom fraud suspects



Immigration process underway for the deportation of foreign entrants.

MYANMAR deported 49 Ethiopians involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday. In addition, the authorities detained another 10 foreigners: eight Chinese nationals and two Vietnamese people, on the same day.

Myanmar authorities officially

handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

Between 30 January and 23 June 2025, a total of 9,180 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 8,955 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to deport the remaining 225 individuals. These individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

Visitors return to Mandalay post-quake, especially on holidays

AFTER being devastated by the earthquake, Mandalay has been active again with visitors, especially on public holidays, according to Mandalay residents.

“Pagodas have been reopened so people can go on pilgrimage. These are natural landscapes, and it is still beautiful whenever you see. Visitor arrival has resumed, and it is visible on public holidays,” said a resident.

Some highway bus terminals have resumed as usual, so travelling is fine, he said. The earthquake left damage in Mandalay Region. Some people have already done house repairs and reconstruction, and some have yet to be completed.

At present, the city has been normal, markets



A glimpse of the Mandalay Zaycho Market. have been reopened, and businesses have resumed, said residents. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

‘Hidden Vault Vol 2’ exhibits rare works by veteran Myanmar artists in Yangon



Photos showcase paintings displayed at the exhibition, held from 22 June to 29 June in Yangon.

A group art exhibition titled ‘Hidden Vault Vol 2: Still Life’, featuring works by seven veteran painters, is currently being held at the Myanmar Ahla Art Gallery in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region. The exhibition opened on 22 June and will run until 29 June, according to sources.

“This exhibition includes rare pieces by the late master artist Kin Maung Yin and the renowned painter Mon Thet. A special highlight will take place at 11 am on 23 June, when veteran artist U Win Pe Myint will conduct a live demonstration of still-life painting for fellow artists and enthusiasts. For those who are unable to attend in person, the session will be livestreamed via the Myanmar Ahla Art Gallery Facebook page,” said one of the organizers.

The ‘Hidden Vault Vol 2: Still Life’ group exhibition showcases a colourful and diverse collection of paintings created in various styles and mediums by master artists Kin Maung Yin, Win Pe Myint, Mon Thet, Ko Pyae, Shwe Thein, MT Aung, and Kin Maung Zaw. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar to compete at Miss Grand International 2025 in BKK

JK Sofia, the newly crowned Miss Grand Myanmar 2025, will represent Myanmar at the Miss Grand International 2025 pageant, scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand.

The national competition to select



JK Sofia, Miss Grand Myanmar 2025, is seen after receiving her crown.

Myanmar’s representative was held on 21 June at the Shwe Htut Tin compound in Tamway Township, Yangon. JK Sofia, representing Namhkam, emerged as the winner among 27 contestants from across the country.

Speaking after receiving the crown, JK Sofia said, “I was overwhelmed with excitement when I won. All my hopes have come true. The year 2025 will be truly special for me. I will be training hard, focusing on fitness, and working to achieve excellence in body, beauty, and brain. Please support me when I represent Myanmar abroad.”

Several other awards were presented at the event. Ahtingaya Po Po, representing East Yangon, won the Best Evening Gown Award, while May Thazin Oo from Mandalay was named Super Model of the Grand. Hkawng Tsai from Waingmaw received the Face of the Grand award, and the Rising Star Award went to Thinzar Toe Win from Taunggyi. Lashi Aung Bu was honoured with the Real Beauty by LV Clinic award.

As for the final results of the Miss Grand Myanmar 2025 competition, JK Sofia from Namhkam was crowned the winner. The 1st Runner-Up title went to Ahtingaya Po Po (East Yangon), followed by Tharaphi Maung (Magway) as 2nd Runner-Up, Julie Htoi San (Bhamo) as 3rd Runner-Up, and Eaint Hmu Thwe Aung (Haka) as 4th Runner-Up. — ASH/KNN

‘Just a Bazaar Seller, But So Haughty’ premieres nationwide in July



This photo shows a poster for the film ‘Just a Bazaar Seller, But So Haughty’.

THE Myanmar movie titled ‘Just a Bazaar Seller, But So Haughty’ is set to be screened in cinemas across the country in the coming July in major cinemas, according to reports.

The romantic comedy film is written by Ko Kyaw and directed by Kyaw Zaw Lin (Atwayponyeik). The movie was shot in PyinOoLwin in 2018, with actor Aung Ye Lin playing the lead role of a young man with a passion for gambling.

Academy Moe Di and Hein Min also appear in the film, portraying the head and the elder of a market, respectively.

The movie will feature Academy

Khine Thin Kyi, Academy Shwe Hmone Yati, and Ngwe Hmone Yati as young female bazaar vendors, alongside Aung Ye Lin. Together, they depict the daily lives, youthful antics, and humorous mishaps of people in the bustling market world.

The cast also includes a host of well-known performers such as Aung Ye Lin, Academy Award winners Soe Myat Thuza, Khine Thin Kyi, Shwe Hmone Yati, Moe Di, and Nwe Nwe San, as well as Ngwe Hmone Yati, Yoon Shwe Yi, Hein Min, Zin Myo, Hnget Pyaw Gyaw, Aye Aye Khine, Myo Myo Khine, and Yelay Ma, among others. — ASH/MKKS

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Yangon palm oil reference price dips this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market slightly declined to K6,080 per viss for the week ending 29 June from K6,110 per viss in the previous week ending 22 June, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution. The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late



A shopper examines cooking oil brands on a supermarket shelf.

August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging

and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

138th Canton Fair welcomes Myanmar business leaders

MYANMAR businesspeople are invited to participate in the 138th Canton Fair, China's import and export fair, that will be held in the Canton Fair Complex, Guangzhou, China, from 15 October to 4 November, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization. Interested entities must provide a company registration, product and service summary of the company, official website, logo, trademark certificate, countries of origin and production documents in China or other external countries.

It will be held under three phases: Phase I from 15 to 19 October, Phase II from 23 to 27 October and Phase III from 31 October to 4 November. The time for booth dismantling and setup is on 20-22 October and 28-30 October. Participants must bear accommodation, food, and travel costs themselves. The

category of the products in each phase can be observed at <https://cief.cantonfair.org.cn/html/cantonfair/en/exhibitor/2012-09/24825.shtml>.

The booth ranges from RMB23,000 to RMB26,000 per raw space (minimum 36 M2). Participants can dismantle and set up their booths through contractors of the Canton Fair. The qualified contractor list is uploaded on the official website. Shell Scheme costs RMB27,000-30,000 per (9 M2) booth. Organizers will install furniture and provide a defined space for exhibitors to showcase their products.

Furthermore, online stores can be set up through the Canton Fair online Platform service package. Business entities can enquire about details by contacting the organizer directly. Governmental institutions led by the Ministry of Commerce of the Least Developed

Countries (LDC) can also enjoy up to four free booths. Only eight booths are designated for LDC per session, with a first-come, first-served system.

The list of LDCs can be seen at <https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>.

Those organizations that book more than ten booths will get a discount of 3,000 yuan per booth. Those with over 30 booths will get a 4,000 yuan discount per booth, and those with over 100 booths will enjoy a reduced amount of 5,000 yuan each. The individuals need to register by 15 August 2025. They can enquire about details through Mr Barry Zhu at +86 2089138589, fax +86 2089138550, and email project1@cantonfair.org.cn. Moreover, they can contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via 067 408623 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK



An exchanger see counting greenbacks at the exchange counter.

CBM injects over US\$7.5M, THB40M, CNY3M in May

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$7.5 million, 40 million baht and three million yuan in May.

CBM injected over \$42 million, over 20 million baht and 500,000 yuan in April, over \$126 million, 320 million baht and 3.6 million yuan in March, over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and over \$124 million, over 13.8 million baht and over 4.8 million yuan in January 2025. CBM aims to curb instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Sagaing Tourism Zone preparing for tourism revival

FROM PAGE 1

Earthquake-related knowledge can also be observed there.

"Hotels and guesthouses are endeavouring to be operational again. Tourism sector in the region will be revived one or two months later," an official of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism considered.

Four out of 14 hotels and guesthouses suffering less

damage from the Mandalay Earthquake have been reported to the regional government to restart business operations. Four hotels collapsed, and six were adversely affected. They are trying to seek approval for reconstruction service from the Ministry of Construction as per the SOP and the Engineers' building assessment and compliance.

Last year, Sagaing Region hosted over 320,000 visitors and over 2,500 tourists, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Sagaing Region). — ASH/KK

OPINION

ARTICLE

Well prepared to hold a free and fair election

THE State Administration Council is working towards establishing a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union rooted in democracy and federalism. To this end, preparations are being made across the country to successfully hold a free and fair general election by the end of 2025, as officially announced.

Although the Constitution recognizes 330 townships for electoral processes, not all of them participated in past elections due to various challenges. This time, efforts are being intensified to enable voting in the majority of townships and to safeguard the voting rights of all eligible citizens. A key priority in this process is the compilation of complete and accurate voter lists. These lists must be based on reliable population data for individuals aged 18 and above. To ensure this, the Ministry of Immigration and Population conducted door-to-door field enumerations, verifying household population records against official household lists.

That is why extensive preparations are underway to guarantee a successful multiparty democratic general election by the end of 2025. The State Administration Council emphasizes unity and cooperation among all stakeholders in completing these important tasks on time and urges collective action to uphold the democratic rights of the people.

Those not included in the official records were documented through temporary household lists. The government is now cross-checking official, supplementary, and temporary lists to develop a verified and inclusive population record. From 1 to 15 October 2024, a nationwide population census was carried out to include all residents within Myanmar's territory.

Since there is a time gap of roughly two years between the national census and the field-verified records, discrepancies in population data are expected. Therefore, systematic comparisons are being conducted between these two sets of data—from the township level down to the grassroots—to ensure the accuracy of the final voter list.

Political parties are also actively preparing for the upcoming election in line with the Political Parties Registration Law. The formation and functioning of political parties, as well as the election itself, depend heavily on credible voter lists and the guaranteed voting rights of eligible citizens. Steps are also being taken to allow internal migrants to cast their votes. Ensuring peaceful and stable conditions in each region is another essential part of the electoral process. The accuracy of the voter list and recognition of valid identification documents are being prioritized to ensure that every eligible citizen can vote.

That is why extensive preparations are underway to guarantee a successful multiparty democratic general election by the end of 2025. The State Administration Council emphasizes unity and cooperation among all stakeholders in completing these important tasks on time and urges collective action to uphold the democratic rights of the people.

A Simple Life in a Sizzling World

By Min Zan

IN THIS vast, secular world where every person walks their own path, very few truly know what lies in the hearts of others. We pass each other in the street, sit side by side in tea shops, nod in politeness, and yet remain strangers in soul. Each person carries a bundle of quiet preferences, hidden joys, and untold stories. In my own quiet corner of life, one of my simplest pleasures is enjoying Myanmar fried snacks – golden, crisp, and comforting.

There is something profoundly satisfying about eating something fried, hot, and crackling fresh from the pan. I love gourd fritters, chickpeas wrapped in glutinous rice dough and deep-fried until golden, slices of bananas smeared with a touch of rice batter and dropped into sizzling oil, their edges curling into crispy swirls. These humble snacks, often accompanied by a light salad and a cup of hot green tea, are a small feast. Whether it's morning or afternoon, sitting at home or on a small wooden stool near a roadside hut, this modest meal brings warmth to the day. It's not only about filling the stomach – it is about savouring a familiar comfort, about a

connection with the people who make them.

At just K100, these fried snacks are among the most affordable foods you can buy. But beyond price, they carry value in ways money cannot measure. A small piece can satisfy hunger, spark memory, and even bring people together. Compared to other snack varieties, fried snacks offer more for less – they are economical, filling, and full of flavour. That is perhaps why I came to befriend Mi Pauk, a hawker known in several wards, including mine. Every day, she carries trays of fried snacks on her head, walking tirelessly from street to street, lane to lane. She doesn't advertise with loud voices or flashy signs – her quiet endurance and ever-consistent presence are more than enough.

Mi Pauk is a figure you can spot from afar. Her pace is steady, her expression calm. With each step, she balances a tray full of fried treats like a practised dancer. After finishing one tray, she returns to the hut and loads another. From sunrise to dusk, she moves like time itself – unhurried but unstoppable. Her path is long, and her feet must ache, but she



never lets it show. Truly, who among us could walk from ward to ward, day after day, in the burning sun and pouring rain, without a word of complaint?

Though her work is tiring, her strength is admirable. She never grumbles. Her face, like the steady flame beneath a frying pan, remains unshaken. If you were to ask a glamorous model to trade places with Mi Pauk for just a day, she would not only refuse but might collapse from exhaustion. On the other hand, if Mi Pauk were asked to walk on a stage in high heels before a thousand flashing cameras, her shy soul might wither from embarrassment. Each person is shaped for their own journey, and each journey deserves its own respect.

Mi Pauk is not a scholar. She does not wear fancy clothes or carry a mobile phone. She does not boast wealth or fame. But she has a quiet dignity that cannot be bought. She walks with her head held high, not because of pride, but because she has nothing to be ashamed of. She is feeding her parents. She is supporting her family. And she is doing it with clean hands and a pure heart. In every street she passes, people know her not just as a hawker, but as a dutiful daughter and a symbol of perseverance. Her courage shines not in loud ways but in her ability to keep going with grace and kindness. In my eyes, Mi Pauk is an extraordinary girl – one of the unsung heroines of everyday life.

Lately, though, the snacks in her tray seem fewer. They look smaller and lighter. And Mi Pauk herself, already slim, seems to be shrinking too. Her frame is more fragile, her cheeks a little hollower. She walks as always, but something in her silhouette suggests a silent exhaustion. Regular customers, like me, have noticed. We feel a small ache of worry as we eat her snacks. The crunch is the same, but the taste carries concern.

No matter how few the snacks become, we keep buying them – not just because they're delicious, but because we want to support Mi Pauk. It's a quiet act of solidarity. We eat, not just to satisfy hunger, but to encourage her – to let her know that we see her. What we consume may be a piece of fried gourd or banana, but what we're buying is a fragment of her effort, her daily labour, her fight to live with dignity.

Sometimes, as I watch her disappear around a street corner with the afternoon light behind her, I can't help but think: Is her life like a piece of fried snack – dropped into the boiling oil of this harsh, secular world, sizzling and shrinking in the heat? Is the weight she carries more than physical? I wonder about her dreams, her fears, and whether she ever asks, in quiet moments, if it's all worth it.

And then I realize – it's not just Mi Pauk. We are all, in some way, being fried by the world. The flames of duty, the bubbling oil of hardship, the steam of endless expectations – they surround us all. Some of us puff up and crack under pressure. Others, like Mi Pauk, hold their shape, enduring silently, becoming golden through their trials. Life, for all of us, is a pan of hot oil. We dance, we sizzle, we shrink – but we also gain colour, texture, and taste.

So next time I hold a crispy fritter in my hand, I will not just taste the chickpeas or the banana. I will taste resilience. I will feel the story of Mi Pauk and many like her – people who live quietly, struggle daily and shine in their soft way. And I will remember that dignity doesn't wear a uniform. It walks barefoot, with a tray on its head and love in its heart.

And perhaps, after all, the world is not such a secular place. For in these small human connections—in sharing fried snacks and silent respect – we find a kind of sacredness, don't we?

The Healing Power of Being Present

By Laura Htet (UDE)

THERE comes a time in everyone's life when the weight of the world feels too heavy. The days seem long, the nights even longer. Emotions twist around our chest like vines – regret, fear, guilt, and sadness – all pressing down on our spirit, making it hard to breathe. And often, without even realizing it, our greatest enemy is not the situation around us, but the thoughts inside us.

Let me take you on a journey – one that many of us are walking in silence. A journey of healing, of learning to let go, and most importantly, of learning to live one day at a time.

Have you ever sat alone in a quiet room, only to realize that your mind was anything but silent?

Our thoughts never stop. They race, repeat, rewind, and fast-forward. One moment, we're

reliving an old conversation, and the next, we're worrying about a future that hasn't even arrived yet. The truth is that the thoughts we entertain determine the emotions we experience.

We believe we are reacting to the world outside, but most of the time, we are reacting to the storm inside. The memory of something painful, the fear of what might go wrong, the guilt over what we should have done differently – these are all just thoughts, yet they feel as heavy as reality.

When we think about joyful memories, we smile. Our heart-beat slows, our body relaxes, and

we feel light. But when we think about painful experiences, our chest tightens. Our breathing changes. Sometimes our eyes fill with tears. Our body reacts to our mind as if it's all happening now – even if it's just a memory.

So, we need to ask ourselves: If we truly know this, why do we let these thoughts linger? Why do we keep revisiting pain again and again? Why do we punish ourselves with guilt, fear, and worry?

Two of the strongest emotions that disturb our peace are regret and fear. Regret lives in the past. Fear lives in the future. Neither one exists right now. And yet,

we carry them like heavy stones in our hearts. Sometimes we ask ourselves: "Why did I do that? Why didn't I say something different? If only I had been stronger... wiser... braver..." These thoughts become a cage. We keep revisiting old moments like watching the same sad movie over and over, hoping for a different ending.

Other times, our thoughts rush into the future: "What if I fail? What if it doesn't work out? What if I lose everything? What if I'm not good enough?" And so, we worry... and worry... and worry – about things that haven't even happened.

But here's a truth that changed my life: We don't have to solve tomorrow's problems today. We don't have to carry the weight of what might happen because chances are, it won't happen the way we imagine. And even if it does – we'll handle it, just like we always have.

Let me share something personal. There was a time when I felt like I was drowning in my own emotions. Life had hit me hard. I was overwhelmed – mentally, emotionally, spiritually. I woke up every day with a heart full of dread and a mind full of noise.

That's when I realized some-

thing had to change. I didn't need a perfect life – I needed peace of mind. So, I made a promise to myself: Just get through today. Not this week. Not this year. Just today.

And slowly, something shifted. I stopped fighting with the past. I stopped fearing the future. I began to focus only on the present – one moment at a time, one breath at a time. This became my healing mantra: "One day at a time." It's simple, yet it saved me.

During this healing process, I found inspiration in a sermon called "Facing the World with Sympathetic Joy" by Venerable

Dr Ashin Dhammasami, an Oxford Sayadaw known for his compassionate wisdom. He shared a concept that moved me deeply. "Sometimes when life feels impossible, and your heart is heavy with sorrow, try this: Think of the efforts you've made. Remember the hard things you've overcome. Remind yourself that you did your best. And feel proud – not arrogant – but proud of how far you've come."

This is called sympathetic joy, or Mudita, in Buddhist teaching. It's the act of celebrating good – not only in others but also in ourselves. It helped me shift my thoughts. Instead of thinking, "I'm not enough," I began to say, "I've done enough for today." Instead of asking, "Why did that happen to me?" I started saying, "Look what I survived."

Let me tell you a funny story. My sister and I have completely

different sleeping habits. Every night, when she lies down, she closes her eyes and sleeps within seconds. She sleeps like the world doesn't exist. Me? I lie there, thinking.

Thinking about everything I did today. What I should have said. What I shouldn't have said. Planning the next day. Replaying conversations. Even imagining arguments that might never happen! At some point, I had to laugh at myself. Because overthinking had become a full-time job.

And that's when it hit me: We don't need more thoughts. We need more presence. Our minds love to work. But we must learn to rest, too. We cannot control everything. We can't stop every bad thing. But we can control our reaction. Our focus. Our inner space.

SEE PAGE 10

ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON:
WORLD

Australian scientists help unveil new era of astronomy with new global telescope



This undated handout image released by NSF-DOE on 20 June 2025 shows another small section of NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory's total view of the Virgo cluster. Visible are two prominent spiral galaxies (lower right), three merging galaxies (upper right), several groups of distant galaxies, many stars in the Milky Way galaxy and more. The team behind the long-awaited Vera Rubin Observatory in Chile published their first images on 23 June 2025, revealing breathtaking views of star-forming regions as well as distant galaxies. More than two decades in the making, the giant telescope, funded by the US National Science Foundation and the US Department of Energy is perched at the summit of Cerro Pachon in central Chile, where dark skies and dry air provide ideal conditions for observing the cosmos. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / NSF-DOE VERA C. RUBIN OBSERVATORY / AFP**

AUSTRALIAN scientists are marking a significant breakthrough in astronomy as the Vera C Rubin Observatory in Chile unveils its first images from a revolutionary new telescope.

The observatory, featuring the world's largest digital camera and a powerful eight-meter mirror, will scan the entire southern sky every few nights,

capturing unprecedented detail and enabling real-time detection of cosmic events, according to a release from the University of Melbourne on Monday.

The Rubin Observatory's Legacy Survey of Space and Time, named for pioneering astronomer Vera Rubin who first measured dark matter in galaxies, will gather around 20

terabytes of data each night, producing an unparalleled, high-resolution time-lapse of the universe over the next decade, the release said.

Scientists expect to receive up to 10 million alerts daily for changes in brightness or position of celestial objects, paving the way for discoveries of potentially unknown phenomena, it said. — Xinhua

Scientists develop featherweight material to tackle global water scarcity

AN international team of scientists has created an exceptionally lightweight nanomaterial that can efficiently draw significant amounts of clean drinking water from moisture in the air.

The nanomaterial, a calcium-enhanced graphene oxide aerogel, adsorbs water vapor over three times faster than existing technologies while

holding more than three times its own weight in water, according to a release from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) on Monday.

The project, led by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Carbon Science and Innovation (ARC COE-CSI) and including Nobel laureate Prof Kostya Novoselov based at the Na-

tional University of Singapore, found that introducing calcium ions into graphene oxide produced an unexpected molecular synergy, the release said.

This synergy strengthens hydrogen bonding, enabling significantly higher water adsorption than either component achieves alone, described by researchers as a "1+1>2" effect, it said. — Xinhua

The Healing Power of Being Present

FROM PAGE 9

There's a powerful teaching I hold onto: "Don't lose twice." Let me explain. Sometimes, we suffer once when a difficult event happens. But then we keep thinking about it, replaying it, fearing it – and we suffer again and again in our minds. This is like punishing ourselves for something that has already passed. We lose once in reality and many times in memory. So why do that? What if we said:

- "Let me deal with things only when they truly happen."
- "Let me protect my joy from imaginary sorrow."
- "Let me stop rehearsing pain."

This mindset creates space to breathe. If we are struggling today, let this comfort us: Everything is temporary. Pain changes. Emotions shift. Life moves forward. Just like seasons, nothing stays the same forever. Even the pain we're feeling now – whether it's heartbreak, fear, loss, or uncertainty – it will change. Slowly, quietly, in the background, healing is happening.

We may not see it today, but one day we'll look back and realize that the thing we thought

would break us made us stronger. We are not weak – we are growing.

Here's a short practice I follow that helps me stay present: Every morning, I say to myself, "Just for today, I will stay grounded. I will not carry yesterday or tomorrow." Throughout the day, when stress rises, I remind myself, "This moment is safe. I don't need to fix everything right now." Every evening, I whisper, "I did what I could. I'm proud of myself. Tomorrow can wait."

This practice doesn't solve all problems, but it gives me space. It softens my heart and teaches me that peace isn't found in perfection – it's found in presence. All we need to do is live one day at a time.

The world may continue to be chaotic. Problems will come. But inside us, there is a quiet place – a place where peace lives. A place that whispers, "Today is enough. We are enough."

When our thoughts pull us backwards, let them go. When our fears pull us forward, release them. Come back to now. This moment is our home. This breath is our anchor. This day is our chance to begin again.

So, whatever we're facing, remember this: Live one day at a time. Let that be our path back to peace.

Solar flares may trigger short-term weather shifts on planets: study

SOLAR flares, those intense bursts of radiation from stars, can cause rapid weather changes on planets, even here on Earth, according to scientists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Their new findings, published in *The Astronomical Journal*, offer strong proof that flares from a star can lead to noticeable climate shifts within just a few days.

This research could help us pinpoint which planets outside our solar system, known

as exoplanets, might be able to support life. It also sheds new light on the short-term weather patterns we experience on Earth.

While the study largely focused on these distant worlds, the researchers pointed out that solar activity might also contribute to brief weather changes on Earth. These are different from the long-term climate shifts caused by human actions, but they could still have significant impacts in areas prone to unpredictable weather. — Xinhua

Girls shouldn't shout?: Women break the mould at French metal festival

WOMEN artistes are pushing back against gender stereotypes at the French heavy metal festival Hellfest, where men have long dominated the loud and rebellious genre.

With around 60,000 visitors per day, the 18th edition of France's biggest metal festival wrapped up Sunday after four days of head-banging performances.

Marked by loud guitars and guttural shouting, heavy metal has historically been associated with men and virility.

On Friday, nine bands featuring at least one woman took to one of Hellfest's main stages, a notable step towards recognizing women in the genre.

Hellfest showcases around 180 bands spanning metal sub-genres from thrash and black

metal to hardcore punk, with major acts like Korn, Muse and Scorpions performing.

Among the newer voices carving space in the scene is Camille Contreras, a chemical engineer by training and self-taught metalcore vocalist, who faced a backlash in 2023 after joining French band Novelists as their lead singer.

"There were a few remarks, but I didn't really take them personally because they said 'a girl shouldn't shout'," Contreras told AFP.

"I told myself 'this guy, he's just stupid'."

Contreras proved her vocal strength during live shows, helping Novelists gain international traction with tours in the United States and China. — AFP



Heavy metal fans attend the 18th edition of the Hellfest Summer Open Air rock and heavy metal festival in Clisson, western France, on 19 June 2025, as a heatwave hits France. **PHOTO AFP**

Travel firm Agoda urged to improve business after booking troubles

THE Japan Tourism Agency has urged the Japanese arm of online travel agency Agoda Company Pte to improve its business practices due to booking problems, a source familiar with the matter said Monday. In March, the agency asked Agoda International Japan to address problems including repeated cases of travellers arriving at hotels to find no record of their paid bookings. In some instances, the reservation details provided to hotels were incorrect.

The following month, the company submitted a list of measures to the agency outlining how it would address the booking issues, but some hotel operators in Japan said the problems were still occurring as of June.

Based in Singapore, Agoda, a subsidiary of the world's leading online travel service provider, Booking Holdings Inc., provides services in 39 languages and employs staff in 27 markets, according to the company. — Kyodo



Photo taken in Tokyo on 23 June 2025 shows the icon of the Agoda hotel booking app on a smartphone. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Jonathan Anderson set for Dior debut at Paris Fashion Week

MEN'S Fashion Week returns to Paris on Tuesday with heightened anticipation as Jonathan Anderson shows his first creations for Dior and Saint Laurent rejoins the official calendar.

Following a flurry of artistic director changes, the spring-summer 2026 menswear season reflects the industry's instability: Milan scaled back its programme and London pulled

out entirely.

But Paris is doubling down with a packed edition. "The calendar is quite dense and there's a very good balance between creativity, business, independent labels, large groups and new talent," Alice Feillard, men's buying director at Galeries Lafayette, the landmark Paris department store, told AFP.

Around 70 labels are set

to showcase their collections through 30 presentations and 40 runway shows between 24 and 29 June. The most eagerly awaited show is Dior Homme on Friday, marking the debut of Northern Irish designer Anderson, who was appointed head of Dior womenswear in early June just weeks after joining Dior Homme, replacing Maria Grazia Chiuri. — AFP

Laos focuses on reducing dropouts, advancing education

LAOS' Ministry of Education and Sports held a meeting to develop a nationwide messaging campaign that promotes the value of education, reduces dropout rates, and expands access to basic education across the country. The four-day meeting held here from Monday focused on scriptwriting and storytelling techniques for creating a video that highlights the importance of staying in school and encour-

ages Lao society to recognize education as the foundation of both life and work.

The meeting marks an initial step in addressing the high student dropout rate, driven by economic hardship and a lack of confidence in the value of education, the Vientiane Mai newspaper reported on Monday.

Socioeconomic challenges in Laos have led to a decline in students' focus on education

and less parental support. The education promotion video aims to capture viewers' attention and help Lao society recognize the importance of education.

In his speech, Outhit Thipmany, deputy director general of the Research Institute for Educational Sciences, stressed that education is not just a personal achievement but also an investment in the country's future. — Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD

Forums on China-Central Asia cooperation development, Silk Road intl communication held in Astana



Arman Kyrykbayev, assistant to the Kazakh president, reads a congratulatory message from Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the opening ceremony of the China-Central Asia Cooperation Development Forum and the Third Silk Road International Communication Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan, 22 June 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE China-Central Asia Cooperation Development Forum and the Third Silk Road International Communication Forum were held on Sunday in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

Around 240 representatives from media, think tanks, cultural institutions and business sectors across China and Central Asia engaged in in-depth discussions on topics including deepening Silk Road

cooperation.

At the opening ceremony, Arman Kyrykbayev, assistant to the Kazakh president, read a congratulatory message from Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. In the letter, Tokayev noted that not long ago, Chinese President Xi Jinping and the heads of state of the five Central Asian countries attended the second China-Central Asia Summit, which concluded with great success.

He said the China-Central Asia Cooperation Development Forum and the Third Silk Road International Communication Forum serve as important platforms for people-to-people dialogue and cultural exchange between Central Asian countries and China. Tokayev expressed confidence that the event will further deepen exchanges and cooperation between the two sides in various fields. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore's core inflation eases to 0.6% in May on lower food prices

SINGAPORE'S core inflation slowed to 0.6 per cent year-on-year in May, down from 0.7 per cent in April, according to official data released on Monday.

In a joint statement, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Monetary Authority of Singapore attributed the moderation primarily to a decline in food inflation.

On a month-on-month basis, the core Consumer Price Index (CPI) registered zero growth in May. The core CPI excludes private transport and accommodation costs to better capture underlying inflation driven by demand-side factors.

Meanwhile, overall inflation also dipped slightly, falling to 0.8 per cent year-on-year in May from 0.9 per cent in April. The easing was due to both lower private transport inflation and the slowdown in core inflation, the statement noted. — Xinhua

S Korea's export grows in 20 days of June

SOUTH Korea's export grew in the first 20 days of this month due to higher demand for locally-made semiconductors, cars and ships, customs office data showed Monday.

Outbound shipment gained 8.3 per cent from a year earlier to US\$38.67 billion during the 1-20 June period, according to Korea Customs Service.

The daily average export advanced 12.2 per cent to \$2.76 billion in the 20-day period.

Semiconductor export soared 21.8 per cent to \$8.86 billion in the cited period, and automotive shipment rose 9.2 per cent to \$3.66 billion. — Xinhua

Mongolia's industrial output drops 0.6% in first 5 months

MONGOLIA'S industrial output reached 15.5 trillion Mongolian tugriks (US\$4.33 billion) in the first five months of 2025, a 0.6 per cent decrease year-on-year, local media reported on Sunday, citing data from the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The fall was attributed mainly to a drop in the output of main mining and extractive products, the NSO said in a statement.

During the period, coal production decreased 23.7 per cent, while crude oil production fell 14.9 per cent.

Currently, the mining sector remains one of main pillars of the Mongolian economy, as the country is rich in natural resources such as gold, silver, copper and coal. — Xinhua

Economists foresee cautious trade outlook for Malaysia amid global uncertainties

ECONOMISTS have projected a cautious trade outlook for Malaysia amid global uncertainties, including the US tariffs.

Maybank Investment Bank said in a note on Monday that three consecutive months of decline in intermediate goods imports signal weaker export performance for Malaysia.

"The outlook also depends on evolving trade and tariffs eg, outcome of US-Malaysia trade and tariff negotiations; US decision on product-specific tariffs, especially on semiconductors," said the research house.

It expects Malaysia's full-year exports and imports growth of 4.3 per cent and 6.4 per cent,

respectively.

According to Maybank, Malaysia's exports benefited from front-loading amid the 90-day suspension of the US reciprocal tariffs, coupled with an exemption on electrical and electronics (E&E) products, which account for 44 per cent of total US imports from Malaysia. — Xinhua



People walk along a shopping street in Kuala Lumpur on 28 May 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tesla launches long-discussed robotaxi service

TESLA began offering robotaxi services Sunday in the US city of Austin, Texas, an initial step that Elon Musk's backers believe could lead to the company's next growth wave.

"Super congratulations to the @Tesla_AI software & chip design teams on a successful @Robotaxi launch!!" Musk posted on the X platform that he owns.

"Culmination of a decade of hard work."

The kickoff — which comes as Musk refocuses on his business ventures following a contentious stint in Donald Trump's administration — will employ the Model Y sport utility vehicle rather than Tesla's much-touted Cybercab, which is still under devel-

opment.

The long-awaited launch follows the dramatic meltdown earlier this month in relations between the US president and the world's richest person, which saw a cascade of bitter attacks from both men.

Since then, Musk has publicly expressed regret for some of his statements, while his company's Texas operation has readied the Austin push — part of a major drive on autonomous technology and artificial intelligence that Tesla believes will yield huge profits.

Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives said autonomous technology could be a catalyst for potentially \$1 trillion or more in additional market value. "There are



(FILES) A blogger films a "Tesla Model Y" car, an all-electric compact SUV by US electric car giant Tesla, on 5 September 2020 during its presentation at the Automobile Club in Budapest. PHOTO: AFP

countless skeptics of the Tesla robotaxi vision with many bears thinking this day would never come,"

said Ives, who predicted Trump's administration would clear roadblocks for Tesla and pivot from the

recent "soap opera." **Business-friendly Texas**
One of the robotaxi's

self-described first users was Tesla fan Herbert Ong, who livestreamed his ride Sunday in a red vehicle that included a person in the passenger seat monitoring the trip for operational safety.

The unveiling in the Texas state capital comes amid questions about how Tesla will try to overcome criticism of Musk's activities for Trump.

Tesla saw profits plunge 71 per cent in the first quarter following poor sales in several markets.

In picking Austin for the debut of the autonomous vehicle (AV) service, Musk is opting for a US state known for its business-friendly approach to regulation. — AFP

China's Juneyao Air launches direct flights from Shanghai to Vladivostok

CHINESE carrier Juneyao Air on Monday launched a direct flight service between Shanghai and Vladivostok, Vladivostok International Airport announced on its official website.

The inaugural flight was welcomed with a special ceremony at the airport. To commemorate

the occasion, the airport distributed a limited edition of postcards to the first group of passengers, along with their boarding passes.

The new service will operate twice weekly, on Mondays and Fridays, throughout the summer flight season. Flights will be operated using an Airbus A320 configured in

a two-class layout, with a flight time of approximately three hours and 30 minutes. With Juneyao Air entering the route, the total number of weekly flights between Shanghai and Vladivostok has increased to eight. Russian carriers Rossiya Airlines and S7 Airlines also serve the route. — Xinhua

Japan rice price falls below 4,000 yen for 1st time since Mar

THE average price of rice in Japan fell below 4,000 yen (\$27) per five kilograms for the first time in around three and a half months to 3,920 yen, the government said Monday, with increased distribution of stockpiles likely helping to drive down prices.

During the seven days

through 15 June, the average price of rice sold at supermarkets across the nation fell by 256 yen per 5 kg from the previous week, dropping to the 3,000 yen range for the first time since the week ended 2 March, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Farm minister Shin-

jiro Koizumi told reporters that the drop was due in part to the release of additional rice reserves, stating that "a clear message from the government is proving effective".

The market share of blended rice, including reserve rice, rose six percentage points to 50 per cent. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY.NO. (SCY1180)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1180)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PH GIANG MINH VOY.NO. (2505)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PH GIANG MINH VOY.NO. (2505)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-6** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AN HAI CONFIDENCE VOY.NO. (105750)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AN HAI CONFIDENCE VOY.NO. (105750)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

LDP wins record-low
seats in Tokyo assembly
race, in blow to PM



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba speaks during a press conference in Tokyo on 23 June 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

PRIME Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party suffered a record-low result in Sunday's Tokyo assembly election, seen as a prelude to July's House of Councillors race, further straining his minority government in national politics.

Tomin First no Kai, a regional party established by Tokyo Governor. Yuriko Koike, won 32 seats, the most in the 127-member met-

ropolitan assembly, indicating the popularity of her public welfare and child-rearing policies. One affiliated independent is included in the figure. The LDP took 22 seats — including three won by candidates previously affiliated with the party but not officially endorsed due to a political funding scandal — falling below the previous record-low of 23 it garnered in 2017.

On Monday, Ishiba told reporters, "We received a very harsh verdict," adding, "We need to thoroughly analyze which of our messages failed to resonate with voters and apply those lessons moving forward."

The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, the main opposition force in national politics, and the LDP's junior coalition partner Komeito party won 17 and 19 seats, respectively. The Democratic Party for the People, which has recently gained momentum in the national parliament, won nine seats, its first wins in the Tokyo assembly election.

Sanseito, a new right-wing populist party, secured three seats — its first in the Tokyo assembly.

Before the race, the LDP held 30 seats, followed by Tomin First with 26, Komeito with 23, and the CDPJ with 12. Voter turnout for the latest election was 47.59 per cent, up 5.20 percentage points from the 2021 vote. The election commission said around 1.73 million people cast early ballots by Saturday, about 300,000 more than in the previous election. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh records 36 new COVID-19 cases, 5 more deaths

BANGLADESH recorded its highest single-day toll of five COVID-19 deaths this year on Sunday, bringing the tally to 29,515 since the start of the pandemic, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said.

The statistics showed 36 new cases of COVID-19 in the country in the past 24 hours as of 8:00 am local time Sunday.

Bangladesh has reported 433 COVID-19 cases and 16 deaths so far this year, the DGHS said.

Amid a fresh rise in COVID-19 infections in several neighbouring countries, the Bangladeshi interim government has asked people to refrain from travelling to those destinations unless absolutely necessary.

The DGHS has instructed relevant departments to enhance health screening and surveillance measures at all ports to contain the spread of the infection. — Xinhua

Greek authorities battle multiple wildfires on Chios

GREEK authorities are continuing efforts to contain a series of wildfires on the eastern Aegean island of Chios, where conditions have been described as extremely critical, the Athens-Macedonian News Agency (AMNA) reported on Monday.

According to the Greek Fire Department, a fifth wildfire broke out around 10:00 am local time (0700 GMT) on Monday in a forested region near Agiasmata in northern Chios, far from the other four active fires. Authorities are seriously considering the possibility of deliberate arson, and an arson investigation unit has been dispatched to the island.

The emergency alert service 112 sent evacuation instructions on Monday to residents of Aghios Sykousis and Dafnonas, as flames approached those communities. Evacuation orders had already been issued for a dozen other settlements since midday Sunday, the report said. — Xinhua

“We want housing, not tanks”: thousands protest NATO expansion in The Hague

THOUSANDS of anti-war protestors have expressed their anger at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) military expansion and increasing defence spending ahead of the alliance's upcoming summit in The Hague, Netherlands.

Organized by more than 20 civil society groups from over 20 countries, the demonstrators gathered Sunday afternoon at Koekamp Park near The Hague Central Station for a large-scale protest.

At the heart of the



Protesters holding banners and placards are pictured in The Hague, the Netherlands, 22 June 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

demonstration stood a striking symbol: a black paper “Trojan Horse”, dubbed the “NATO Horse”. The structure was

filled with mock weapons like landmines, missiles, and guns. Emblazoned in blood-red letters across its body were the words

“Genocide”, “Death”, and “Destruction”, a grim visual statement of the demonstrators' message.

“NATO says it will bring peace and security,” said protester Eevee Garcia. “But it's actually hiding that it will bring more weapons, bring more war, and bring more devastation to the world.”

She emphasized the protest's broader purpose, saying, “It's very important for us to be here today to really highlight that the US is using NATO as a tool to further its aggression in different parts

of the world, and we want to stand together with the people struggling against imperialism.”

The demonstration came in direct response to the NATO summit scheduled for 24-25 June in The Hague, where leaders of the alliance's 32 member states are expected to discuss, among other items, a controversial proposal to raise national defence spending to five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Niels Jongerius, a staff member at the Transnational Institute

and one of the event's organizers, noted the broad international turnout. “To us as a Dutch peace movement, and I think for peace activists elsewhere, it's obvious that we always criticize what our governments do when it comes to warmongering,” he said.

He criticized NATO's vast military footprint, arguing: “NATO is already the most militarized bloc in the world. Far over half of the world's military expenditure is done by NATO and its member states.” — Xinhua

SPORTS

Yangon reaches MNL League cup final with win over Yadanabon

Yangon United defeated Yadanabon FC 3-1 at the semifinal match of the Myanmar National League Cup 2025 played at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon United sailed into the final in two consecutive seasons, defeating Yadanabon 3-1 in the semifinals on both occasions. Thayar Win Htet scored an opening goal for Yangon United at the seven-minute mark. But Yadanabon's Captain Pyi Moe scored an equalizer at 34 minutes to make the result 1-1. Both

teams were tied at the interval.

In the second half, Yangon United made substitutions to raise their attack and scored consecutive winning goals near the end of the game.

The winning goals for YUFC were scored by Kaung Sithu at 88 minutes and Aee Soe at 90+5 minutes.

In turn, MNL League Cup defending champion Shan United will face Ayeyawady United in the other semifinal match at Thuwunna YTC in Yangon on 24 June, today. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Players from both Yangon United and Yadanabon FC are seen in action. PHOTO: MNL



Minjee Lee of Australia poses with the victor's trophy after winning the Women's PGA Championship golf tournament at Fields Ranch East in Frisco, Texas, on 22 June 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

Lee wins Women's PGA C'ship, Japan's Iwai 4th, Yamashita 6th

AUSTRALIAN Minjee Lee won the Women's PGA Championship on Sunday as Japan's Chisato Iwai finished five shots back in fourth and Miyu Yamashita another stroke behind in sixth at the third major of the US LPGA season.

Overnight leader Lee shot a 2-over-par 74 in the final round at the Fields Ranch East golf course in Frisco, Texas, but comfortably held on to a three-stroke victory with a 4-under total of 284 to secure her third major title and first since the 2022 US Women's Open.

Chanettee Wannasaen of Thailand and Auston Kim of the United States tied for second at 1-under, while tour rookie Iwai finished alongside Jeeno Thitikul of Thailand at 1-over to make the top 10 at a major for the first time.

"It was positive that I managed to persevere throughout the day. I got the reward at the end," said the 22-year-old Iwai after carding four birdies and three bogeys.

Iwai, who won her first title on tour in May at the Mexico Riviera Maya Open, was nonetheless keeping her feet on the ground despite a promising start. — Kyodo

10-man Real Madrid beats Pachuca at Club World Cup

TEN-MAN Real Madrid defeated Mexico's Pachuca 3-1 in their Group H clash at the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup on Sunday.

Madrid entered the match at Bank of America Stadium sitting second in the group behind FC Salzburg, following a 1-1 draw against Al Hilal in their opener. The Spanish giant was without star striker Kylian Mbappe, who is recovering from gastroenteritis.

Centre back Raul Asencio was shown a straight red card just seven minutes into the match for fouling Venezuelan striker Salomon Rondon as the last defender outside the box.

Despite being down a man, Vinicius Jr nearly capitalized on a defensive error a few minutes later. Pachuca goalkeeper Carlos Moreno miscontrolled a soft back pass but managed to poke the ball away just before Vinicius could reach it.

Pachuca then tested Real goal-

keeper Thibaut Courtois twice, with close-range efforts from Robert Kennedy and Alan Bautista, but the Belgian made both saves.

Jude Bellingham opened the scoring for Madrid in 35 minutes, collecting a pass from Fran Garcia inside the box and firing into the bottom right corner. Madrid doubled the lead just before halftime when Gonzalo Garcia set up Arda Guler, who slotted the ball into the far post.

"It's twice in two games now, the same mistake. It might have been only slight contact but he has to be a bit more intelligent. But he knows that. We are going to battle for him and win without him. And then when he returns, to win then too," Courtois told DAZN at the break regarding Asencio's dismissal.

Federico Valverde added a third for Madrid in 70 minutes, before Elias Montiel pulled one back for Pachuca ten minutes later. — Xinhua



Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with the trophy during the awarding ceremony for the men's singles final between Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Jiri Lehecka of the Czech Republic at the Queen's Club Championships in London, Britain, on 22 June 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Alcaraz triumphs at Queen's club

TOP seed Carlos Alcaraz defeated Czech hopeful Jiri Lehecka 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-2 to claim the title at the Queen's Club Championships on Sunday.

Alcaraz, who also won the grass-court ATP 500 event in 2023, admitted he didn't expect to lift the trophy this time, having only practiced on grass for two days after taking time off following his successful French Open title defence earlier this month.

The 22-year-old Spaniard was tested by Lehecka, dropping the second set, but gained the upper hand during key moments in the decider.

"I came here with no expectations at all. I just came here with a goal to play two, three matches, try to feel great on grass and give myself the feedback of what I have to improve, what I have to better," said the five-time Grand Slam winner, who will soon begin his Wimbledon title defence.

"I just got used to the grass really quick, and I'm really proud about it," added the world No 2. — Xinhua

Costa sidelined as Boca aims to stay alive in Club World Cup

BOCA Juniors defender Ayrton Costa is set to miss his team's FIFA Club World Cup Group C clash with Auckland City on Tuesday due to a calf muscle tear.

The 25-year-old centre-back sustained the injury in Boca's 2-1 loss to Bayern Munich on Friday and subsequent scans confirmed he would be unavailable for the clash in Nashville, according to widespread media reports in Argentina.

Boca must win the match to have any chance of advancing to the last 16.

The Buenos Aires outfit will also be without Ander Herrera and Nicolas Figal, who were both handed four-game bans after receiving red cards in Boca's 2-2 draw with Benfica in their opening game.

Costa is likely to be replaced in the starting lineup by Marco Pellegrino, who joined the club from Huracan earlier this month. — Xinhua

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race, in blow to PM
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WORLD

Iran National Security Council confirms targeting of US base in Qatar

IRAN'S National Security Council confirmed it had attacked a major US military base in Qatar on Monday in retaliation for American strikes on its nuclear facilities, adding its response did not "pose any threat" to its Gulf neighbour.

"In response to the US aggressive and insolent action against Iran's nuclear sites and facilities, a few hours ago, the powerful armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran struck the US air base in Al-Udeid, Qatar," the council said in a statement, adding that the number of missiles used "was the same as the number of bombs that the US had used in attacking Iran's nuclear facilities".

"This action does not pose any threat to our friendly and brotherly country, Qatar," it added.

Qatar says 'successfully intercepted' missiles targeting US base

Qatar said it had successfully intercepted an Iranian missile attack Monday on the United States' Al Udeid base, the largest US military facility in the Middle East.

"The Ministry of Defence announced that Qatari air Defences successfully intercepted a missile attack targeting Al Udeid Air Base," it said in a statement, adding that "the incident did not result in any deaths or injuries". — AFP



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (C, front) speaks at an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York, 22 June 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Global outcry mounts over US raids on Iran's nuclear sites

WASHINGTON faces sharp condemnation across the globe after President Donald Trump boasted about US raids on Iranian nuclear facilities, amid rising warnings of a dangerous escalation.

The raids came amid intensified Israeli attacks on Iranian territory since 13 June, which killed Iran's senior commanders, nuclear scientists and hundreds of civilians. Tehran has retaliated with drone and missile strikes.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Sunday that the

US bombing of Iranian nuclear facilities marks a perilous turn in a region that is already reeling.

"We must act — immediately and decisively — to halt the fighting and return to serious, sustained negotiations on the Iran nuclear programme," he urged.

The US move seriously violates the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, as well as Iran's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, said Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, at an emergency meeting of the Security Council. It has exacerbated tensions in

the Middle East and dealt a heavy blow to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, Fu added. Russia also vehemently condemned the US "irresponsible, dangerous and provocative" actions against Iran, a sovereign country and a UN member state, said Vassily Nebenzia, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, at the emergency meeting.

Governments in the Middle East sounded the alarm over the bombing of Iran's Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan nuke sites, calling them a violation of international law and a threat to regional and global security. — Xinhua



Scientists conduct the interventional brain-computer interface (BCI) experiment on non-human primates on 4 May. PHOTO: NANKAI UNIVERSITY/CHINA DAILY

China completes world's first interventional brain-computer interface experiment on human

A Chinese team, led by Nankai University, announced a significant breakthrough in brain-computer interface (BCI) technology: the world's first interventional human BCI experiment on a human patient.

This less-invasive procedure helped a 67-year-old male patient, suffering from paralysis, regain significant limb function, according to Nankai's announcement on Sunday.

The patient, who had experienced

left-side paralysis for six months due to a cerebral infarction, saw his left upper limb achieve actions like grasping and taking medicine.

Unlike the invasive skull-opening surgery used by Elon Musk's Neuralink last year, this pioneering technique involves implanting a device into the skull via neck blood vessels. The device, a stent electrode, was guided into the patient's cranial blood vessel wall using high-precision imaging. — Xinhua